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TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF ILLINOIS

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Task Force on the Future of Illinois has been created by the Illinois General Assembly with the expressed purpose of defining long-term goals and objectives for the State and developing an agenda for implementing them. The Task Force consists of four State Senators, four State Representatives, and nine private citizens appointed by the Governor. It is to report to the Governor and the General Assembly during 1979.

The Task Force's enabling legislation instructs it to direct "particular consideration" to "economic development and job opportunities," and to "management and conservation of natural and man-made resources." The Task Force has determined that its central purpose should be to develop a long-range "Strategy" for preservation and improvement of the quality of life in Illinois.

Background

Illinois has for the past 100 years served as "crossroads" for the nation. Its successful development of a strong, broadly based economy has been based not only on important environmental resources (farmland, water, and coal, for example) but also upon geography and national preeminence in transportation.

Illinois itself may now be at crossroads in terms of future development, particularly insofar as natural resources (especially in agriculture and coal) and job opportunities (especially in its older communities and heavy industries) are concerned. There are grounds for concern that Illinois is closer to potentially serious problems than the public generally believes.

This concern led a number of voluntary citizens organizations to form a coalition, now known as the Illinois Futures Forum, to support action by the Illinois General Assembly to create the Task Force on the Future of Illinois. As articulated by the sponsors, the legislation responded to a recognition that government generally reacts to crises on a day-to-day or at most year-by-year basis, with few long-term or overall objectives. Particularly lacking is a vision of what life in Illinois should be like in the future.

Other states have recently undertaken projects to plan for the future, and the Illinois legislation is in some respects patterned after them. Illinois should be able to profit from these experiences, which have been diverse and of varied success in terms of structural change and impact. Some of these planning efforts have suffered from failures to define objectives and intended products at an early stage, resulting in a diffusion of effort. This experience indicates that it is important for the Illinois Task Force to establish objectives, desired results, and a working plan early in its deliberations. This statement attempts to do precisely this.

This exercise is particularly important in light of the Task Force's legislative mandate to create statewide awareness of factors and trends affecting the future of Illinois. The legislation instructs the Task Force to "conduct public hearings across the state" and to organize a "participation and information program for all citizens." The Task Force feels a need to develop a strong sense of direction before this public participation program is undertaken.

Work Plan

The work of the Task Force will concentrate upon four key areas, the relationship of these areas to each other, and the influence upon them of government regulations and programs. Three of these areas may be summarized as (1) economic development, (2) natural resources, and (3) human services. The fourth area is government itself, particularly insofar as its policies and procedures relate to one another and to the private sector.

Three inquiries are necessarily broad in scope. The inquiry into economic development will include new strategies for increasing private and public investment in the state's older communities and depressed areas. This study of economic development will also include a strategy for enhancing the business element for the private sector of the State which would encourage the retention and expansion of basic job opportunities in both mature and new businesses. The review of Natural Resources will concern the development of energy and other natural resources in balance with intelligent long-term policies for agriculture, new urbanization, and the environmental quality of life. The work on Human Services will review the present status of and prospects for the provision of services to improve the quality of life for Illinois citizens, with particular emphasis on how the state should ensure decent and fulfilling futures for its children.

The fourth area of inquiry, government policies and procedures, will include an evaluation of the way legislation, mandates, policies, and procedures on one level of government affect other levels of government and private provision of services within the first three categories. The institutional structures to be examined involve governmental activity at state, local and federal levels and the relationship of such activity to the private sector. Of major concern here should be the increasing propensity toward federal preemption of state planning and initiative through mandate programs and other institutional or regulatory mechanisms. These now make it signficantly more difficult than was the case several years ago to institutionalize the state planning process successfully.

Strategic planning is a recognized technique in business. In Illinois government, an important step in this direction was taken in 1969 with the creation of the Bureau of the Budget, which now generates fiscal and population projections and includes a planning office. Functional planning activities remain scattered throughout the various state agencies. The Task Force will explore an integrated planning process that would coordinate state planning activities so that it is possible to establish comprehensive policies that will cut across diverse areas of activities in, for example transportation, environmental protection, and energy

resource development. It will propose methods for stitutionalizing the planning process, and seek th implementation. Consideration will be given to rec mending regular input for this process from univer ties and private organizations throughout the sta At the state government level itself, a logical res of the Task Force's work might be recommendations as the nature and scope of planning powers and respon bilities.

Because the relationships between various Illinois p grams have not been perceived and acted upon in past, there is a clear need today for improved stra gic planning at the state level. State activit today are often uncoordinated and sometimes count productive because of the absence of statements overarching policy such as those the Task Force wo hope to articulate.

The broad scope of these inquiries is necessary achieve a truly comprehensive and useful Strategy the state. In this regard the Task Force will st and learn from recent efforts to develop similar Str egies in, among other states, Michigan, Massachuset and California.

The results of the Task Force should include a writ State Strategy for the future. The Strategy should stated in a document or series of documents of T Force findings and recommendations, to be published fore October 1, 1979. A second output should be "Strategic Planning" process. This may entail prop ing legislation, which should be submitted to Illinois General Assembly on April 1, 1979, or late "Creation of public awareness" in accord with the le islative mandate, perhaps the most important ultim product, involves an on-going effort undertaken in c operation with other public and private organizations

Resources

Assistance from people and agencies within the sta government itself will be critical to the work of t Task Force. Continued cooperation from members of t legislative and Governor's staffs will be importar Also essential to the work of the Task Force will the cooperation and involvement of organizations ou side of state government. Local governments and r gional planning commissions will be contacted statements of community goals. Institutions of hig education will be asked to participate as well as t many private organizations and groups who share t Task Force's interest in the future development of t State.

It is hoped that recommendations made by the Task For will have an unusually favorable prospect for impleme tation because of the nature and extent of involveme by members of the Illinois General Assembly and by Governor's Office. A well-organized public partici tion program will also contribute significantly to a ceptance of the Task Force's new recommendations.

A capable staff is essential for management of the Ta Force's day-to-day activities and eventual achieveme of its objectives. This staff will be small but shou have experience in state and local government issu

The preferred approach would be for the Task Force to secure assistance from state agencies, institutions of higher education, and private organizations. The Task Force will commission a series of "Policy Papers" on topics of principal interest to it. This work could form the basis for the recommendations and any legislation prepared for the Governor and the Illinois Legislature by the Task Force on the Future of Illinois.

Statement adopted by the Task Force on June 12, 1978

LEGISLATION

An Act creating the Illinois Futures Task Force and defining its powers and duties.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, representing in the General Assembly:

Section 1. There is created the Illinois Futures Task Force, to evaluate and articulate State goals and objectives regarding the future of Illinois and to recommend an agenda for implementing actions.

The Task Force shall consist of 17 members appointed as follows:

Four House members, 2 each appointed by the House Speaker and the House Minority Leader. The House members shall include at least one each from Cook County, the Northern Illinois area, and the Southern Illinois area;

Four Senate members, 2 each appointed by the Senate President and the Senate Minority Leader;

Nine public members appointed by the Governor. To the extent possible, the appointment of public members shall be broadly representative of interests in the State's economic development and management of physical resources, and shall also provide for the participation of residents throughout all portions of the State.

A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Section 2. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from the Task Force with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Task Force shall elect from its membership such other officers as it considers necessary.

Section 3. The Task Force members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual reasonable expenses.

Section 4. The Task Force may appoint an executive director and such other employees as it considers necessary, without regard to the Personnel Code.

Section 5. The Task Force has the following purposes, powers and duties:

1. To create statewide awareness of factors and trends affecting the future of Illinois; and

2. To provide a forum through which citizens may openly provide information and express their views regarding present conditions and future prospects; and

3. To analyze the issues required for future oriented decision-making; and

4. To formulate and evaluate alternatives; and

5. To articulate State goals and objectives regarding the future development of the State; and

6. To recommend an agenda for implementing actions to reach these goals.

The Task Force shall direct its attention to the future well-being of all citizens of the State of Illinois with particular consideration given but not limited to (1) economic development and job opportunities and (2) the management and conservation of natural and man-made resources.

To fulfill the purposes of this Act, the Task Force shall:

1. Assemble information regarding present and anticipated economic, physical and social problems and opportunities within the State; and

2. Conduct a participation and information program for all citizens; and

3. Coordinate its activities and research with other existing commissions, task forces, or study groups created to address public policy considerations in the State of Illinois.

Section 6. The Task Force may apply for and accept Federal or private funds.

Section 7. The Task Force shall conduct public hearings across the State.

Section 8. In aid of the Task Force's work, all departments, bureaus, boards, commissions or other agencies or offices of State government shall cooperate with the Task Force and shall provide requested information, records and advice pertinent to the work of the Task Force.

Section 9. The Task Force may contract with State agencies, other public agencies, private corporations and individuals.

Section 10. The Task Force shall submit interim reports on October 1, 1978 and on October 1, 1979 and a final report on January 15, 1980 to the General Assembly and the Governor.

Section 11. This Act is repealed June 30, 1980.

Section 12. This Act takes effect July 1, 1977.

Public Act 80-1046	September 27, 1977.
Public Act 81- 769	September 16, 1979.

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